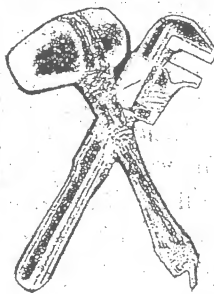


Earth First! Action Update

Issue 70 August 2000



The Monthly Round up of
Ecological, and Other, Direct
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. Einstein

Nether Compton Rally

The anti- GM crop rally held in Nether Compton was a fantastic day - positive, peaceful, non-violent and extremely well supported by a broad cross-section of the community. 300 people heard speeches including, in the interest of impartiality, the Grim Reaper speaking on behalf of the bio-tech corporations.

Post picnic, music and speeches a strolled through the beautiful Dorset Countryside. On arrival at the site, 3 Grim Reapers led about 100 people onto the field, where they focused on decontamination. This lasted for 45 mins before police entered the site and arrested 7 people. One gave a temporary name "for the future", in solidarity with future generations who do not have a voice in the present.

"Future" was charged with criminal damage and was able to submit a personal statement including 27 scientific papers and briefings as "evidence at the scene of their crime".

She was given numerous messages of support from police including "How much of the crop did you manage to do? I wish I had the guts to do it". The police eventually traced her and she was bailed(see rowantilly@gn.apc.org. for her statement). The other six arrestees, were released on bail and are due to appear at Weymouth Magistrates Court at mid-day on 11 August.

An estimated 15% of the crop has been destroyed, which is a significant dent in the fifty acres of maize.

Many enthusiastic people, who had been empowered by their first experience of direct action wanted to know when the next "picnic" is... Everyone is invited to visit Over Compton again! Please bring your strimmers next time, scythes can only manage so much!

Who's involved in GMOs near you?



www.gm-info.org.uk

A new web site has been set up by Corporate Watch. It has regional maps showing each UK site involved in GMO's, from offices to stores to ports to fields. Find out what's happening near you!

*Consent for Aventis to go ahead with a farmscale trial of winter sown oil seed rape has been sneaked through without anyone having an opportunity to object. Its at TF 207 968 nr. Thorganby, Lincolnshire.

Another one bites the dust...

Nine GM farm scale trials damaged or destroyed within the last three weeks. At the time of writing five of the twelve Spring oilseed rape sites and four of the twelve maize sites have been partially destroyed. These are:

Daviot in Scotland 15% of Spring Oilseed Rape (SOSR) destroyed, in 2 separate covert actions (Scotland's only farmscale trial), Hutton Magna, Yorkshire, (SOSR) covert action, no information has been passed on about the extent of the damage, Chipping Campden Gloucester, (SOSR) covert action, 75% destroyed, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (SOSR) covert action, 50 + % destroyed, Kempley, Gloucester, (SOSR) covert action, 50 + % destroyed, Over Compton, Dorset LL Chardon Maize, overt action at public rally, 7 arrests, one person detained, 15% destroyed (see report), Wivenhoe, Essex, LL Chardon Maize, overt action at night, 11 arrests, 25 + % destroyed, Headley Hall Farm, Yorkshire, LL Chardon Maize, covert action, 60+% destroyed, IARC Rothamstead, Herts, LL Chardon Maize, covert action, 35+% destroyed

More info from GEN (see contacts page)

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

News In Brief

- Campaigners against the Ilisu are promising a re-run of this years Balfour Beatty's AGM which had to be abandoned after rebel shareholders invaded the stage. They are inviting people to buy shares in the company so they too can join in the fun at the next AGM. They need one thousand people by mid-August, so send your £2 (cheques etc to be made payable to The Ilisu Dam Campaign) with your name and address and they will do the rest. Ilisu Dam Campaign, Box 210, 266 Banbury Rd., Oxford, OX2 7DL
- Villagers from Chuquita, Bolivia were teargassed as they protested against oil leaking from a pipeline owned by Transredes (Enron-Shell subsidiary). The oil leakage is destroying their land and has polluted 200km of river. Villagers had water with them to help withstand tear gas, and carried on demonstrating, targeting the offices of Enron-Shell with stones and molotov cocktails, demanding that the company clean up and give them drinking water.
- All the people charged after last year's Manchester Reclaim The Streets have walked free. Video footage showed cops punching people in the face and hitting out with batons. mancef@nematode.freeseerco.uk
- Mad Pride 2000, a festival and celebration of survivor culture promoting positive images of mental health; took place in London. The crowd were entertained by P.A.I.N. and Hysteria Ward. Tel: 0958 907357 www.madpride.net
- The GenetiX Snowball 'Handbook for Action Supplement' is now available. It's 105 pages, fully illustrated and costs £ 3.50 (which includes postage and packing). Send cheques payable to genetiX snowball to Box 13, Peace & Environment Centre, 43 Gardener St., Brighton, Sussex. BN1 1UN. Britain.
- Greenham Common Peace March Sculpture project. is to commemorate all the people who struggled so hard to make the world a safer place and to educate and inspire future generations to continue the struggle. www.wfloe.fsnet.co.uk
- Women's Wednesdays in Whitehall: Picket opposite Downing St, London 1-2pm, demands: wages and benefits for caring work; abolition of Third World debt; accessible water, housing and transport; non-polluting technology; asylum from rape and protection from all violence. All welcome. Tel: 020-7482 2496.

McDonald's Defeated

Residents of Hinchley Wood, Surrey, have defeated McDonald's plans to build a drive-thru by occupying the site for a mammoth 552 days!

On 13th December 1998 local residents moved caravans onto the car park of their well-loved local pub which had been leased to McDonald's. The group staffed their campaign office caravan on the site 24 hours a day, and organised public meetings, marches, sponsored events as well as supporting other groups around the country. On June 15th, after 18 months of controversy and determined opposition, McDonald's threw in the towel and handed back the lease to the original pub owners. Hinchley Wood now joins the growing list of places in which local communities have successfully defended themselves against McDonald's. More info from the McLibel Support Campaign: 0207 713 1269.

Land, Housing and Eco-Centre Project

Join a Collective looking for land- preferably Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire. Each member contributes at least £ 1,000 to the land fund, with the aim of buying outright mixed woodland for sustainable woodland management, 'temporary' living space, veg growing, collective activities, tree planting etc. At present there are about 20 members. Some are also interested in buying property to create a housing co-op and small education and arts centre. This needs lots of money! If you know of any going spare, or want to join either project, please get in touch (e-mail preferred)

trolleytheatre@bigfoot.com
0117 939 3903

End Sanctions on Iraq

Voices in the Wilderness and other groups are organising mass nonviolent civil disobedience in London on Monday August 7th, calling for an immediate lifting of economic sanctions on Iraq. Actions will also take place in Washington DC, and at Faslane, Scotland. On Sunday 6th, a vigil will be held in London (venue yet to be decided) followed by an evening of non-violence training, action planning and a legal briefing (accommodation will be provided). <http://www.ecn.org/freedom>
01865 243 232

Cars Stuck in a Jam?

Hundreds of Range Rovers, Jeep Cherokees, Land Rovers and other large vehicles in London have been labelled with adhesive stickers that are proving almost impossible to remove. The stickers say: "Global warming. Stop these outsize vehicles!"

Circus King - violent to people & animals

Campaigners have recently been targeting Circus King, a travelling circus owned by Jeffrey Mackie, which uses animals in its acts.

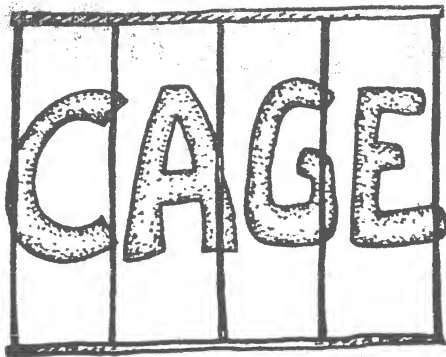
Circus King are not only notorious for Mackie's threats to kill "Fred" the bear, but also for their long record of serious violence against peaceful protesters, reporters & police. This July, an RSPCA inspector accompanied by 2 police officers attempted to gain access to the animals. The incident resulted in Mackie being nicked & charged with criminal damage & affray.

A violent assault by 6 masked King workers on 3 peaceful protesters at Wakefield, near Leeds, motivated campaigners to return to demo at that & every subsequent site as the circus traveled across Yorkshire.

Public attendance of the circus performances has been very low, giving a clear message to King that the vast majority of people do not enjoy watching animal abuse.

Circus King is currently in Scarborough (until 28th August) & demos are continuing. Contact: EF!AU for info on demos/if you have info on forthcoming Circus King locations.





Bastille Day

On 14th July 1789 the people of Paris stormed the French State prison, The Bastille. On Friday 14th 2000, at 9am, people began to gather at Golders Green to celebrate Bastille Day in style with a weekend of action against the expansion of the Prison Industry.

At 10am the crowd of around 100 people walked to West Hamstead Station and onto a train to Richmond, followed by around forty policemen. From Richmond the crowd boarded the Reading Train and police became anxious again - on that line are Wormwood Scubs and Feltham Young Offenders Institute. The crowd began to sing "Ballad of Reading Gaol."

Had the Met read the flyers, they'd have known that the Bastille Day celebration was to be a land occupation. Had they been in touch with Surrey Police they would have known that at 10:30am 50 people occupied a pretty piece of land in Ashford, Surrey, the planned site of yet another Women's Prison.

By the time the Police had worked out what was going on, tripods, tents and marquees were up and people had settled in for a weekend of action, discussion and sharing information about prison expansion and how to stop it.

The response from local people was positive. They don't want the Prison. As soon as the Bastille Day crowd arrived, people were bringing food and trying to persuade them to stay for good. Even train drivers passing the site honked their approval.

Leaflets were taken door to door inviting people to come to the site. People were shown plans of the proposed prison and info about CAGE, direct action, prison privatisation, and immigration detention. The occupation ended on Monday, but the whole action was so successful people were already discussing follow-ups. Ideas included targeting any company that dares to bid for the contract and even setting up a permanent site in Ashford to stop construction altogether.

Harmondsworth

On Saturday over sixty people left the Bastille Day site and went to join the Close Harmondsworth Campaign in a picket outside Harmondsworth Detention Centre, one of the Immigration Service Prisons. Around 100 people took part. People climbed onto the fence surrounding the centre and spoke to the refugees. They ignored police pleas to come down and stop damaging the fence. The protest ended at 2:00pm so that friends and family would be allowed in to visit, but protestors promised to return the next day and visit the people they had met.

On Sunday, 12 people, armed with phonecards, propaganda and cherries, entered Harmondsworth to meet their new acquaintances. Security totally overreacted, confiscating literature and cherries, but they had to let the visitors meet the inmates. Visitors met refugees from Algeria, Kosova, Albania, Pakistan, India and other places, who welcomed them warmly.

Salim Rambo, a refugee from Zaire who fears for his life if he is returned there, was due to be deported to Germany on Tuesday. The German authorities had already refused his asylum application, so from there he would be sent straight to Zaire.

All day Monday was spent trying to get the deportation delayed. Phonecalls to solicitors, MP's and the Immigration Service itself established that there was a legal case to delay the flight. Immigration officials, however, were not interested, and the flight was due to leave at 7:15am the next day.

Direct action

Official channels had failed so protestors turned to direct action. Passengers boarding the British Airways flight from Heathrow, taking Salim to Germany, were given leaflets by CAGE informing them of Salim's presence, and encouraging them not to take their seats until he was allowed off. At 8am a passenger was arrested for standing up and refusing to let the flight depart. The flight was delayed for over 2 hours. Eventually, the pilot insisted Salim was taken off the plane and his forced deportation was prevented. He is now back in detention in London. Salim's new solicitor believes his deportation was illegal as he had no proper legal representation. By trying to deport him in this way, the Home Secretary may have breached international law.

CAGE activists prevented another deportation some days later at Gatwick.

BA and its shareholders profited from 15,000 deportations in three months (January - April 2000). BA don't care about lives they endanger, but they do care about their image and don't like protests. Missing a take-off slot also means a £10,000 fine. Actions in Belgium forced commercial airlines to stop deporting asylum seekers. Work is also being done persuading the Pilot's Union to back pilots refusing to fly forced deportations. Messages of support from other Trades Unions are very much appreciated.

CAGE is a relatively new network that supports and creates resistance to the growing prison industry. It was formed by people in the Earth First! and Reclaim The Streets movements in September 1999. They organise without leaders to take effective direct action against prison building.

After nearly a year of action a newsletter is being put together to let people know what's going on!

Prison Labour

Increasingly companies are using a captive labour force, paying as little as £2.50 per week. CAGE are trying to put together a list of companies exploiting prison labour, but the identity of companies is protected by "commercial confidentiality". Information about this would be much appreciated.

So far we know of The Ecologist, Tysons (a Nottingham based electrical firm), Polymer Reprocessors Ltd, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Harrods, Jewsons, Red or Dead, Land Rover and Poplar Plastics.

Construction

Since 1993 the UK prison population has shot up from 45,000 to a record 65,000. It is private money that is allowing this rate of prison expansion and private companies are profiting by locking people up.

CAGE aims to target the companies involved and stick a spanner in the works of the prison building programme. We have information on the main bidders and maps of corporate HQs and other sites - contact us for more information and leaflets.

CONTACT CAGE. (Details in contacts page.)

refugees are welcome

whose side we're on

The Earth First! network is loosely aligned with all libertarian movements against oppression and exploitation. But we haven't always made clear our opposition to racism and fascism. In the last couple of years, racists, politicians and the right-wing media have been trying to create a climate of racial hatred in the UK. The focus at the moment is asylum seekers; once it was Jews.

There are many brave and committed people working against racism and fascism in the UK and internationally. Occasionally they are linked to organisations that we wouldn't normally work with, but we nonetheless encourage all EF!ers to engage in collective anti-racist activity at a local level. This could mean keeping the Nazis off the streets with AFA, holding rallies or vigils for the victims of racist violence, or offering practical support for refugees.

Despite the attempts of the muck-stirrers, the vast majority of people despise racism, but without active and determined struggle, the racists will gain greater credibility and more people will suffer.

At a very positive workshop at the Earth First! Summer Gathering, many agreed to make anti-racism and refugee support a higher priority in response to the current climate. A discussion paper has been written by one of the participants, highlighting the latent racism within the EF! network itself. This is available from us for free: a recommended read. Also beware of those few sad individuals trying to infiltrate environmental protest and form an ecofascist tendency. We know who you are.

no borders

A noborder group emerged from the MayDay 2000 Conference in London. They are promoting critical evaluation of the border regime in the UK through information and interventions. The border regime includes intimidation and humiliation of refugees through vouchers, dispersal, detention centres, as well as control of internal and external borders. Contact: enoborder@aol.com

Public meeting (with Reclaim the Streets) in London, August 7th at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, 7.30pm. To discuss de-centralised actions in London to coincide with the IMF/World Bank's September meeting in Prague.

The European noborder network consists of European activists, anti-racists, anti-deportation-campaigns and artists. It emerged from the counter-actions to the 1998 EU summit in Tampere/Finland, where a future Common European Asylum System was discussed.

It helped organise an anti-racist border camp at Zittau, in the border-triangle between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany in summer 98. This was visited by around 1400 people. The idea was to create a temporary zone of resistance in a contested area. Combining the tools of radical education with aesthetic and symbolic means, the physical presence of the camp constituted a social intervention in public space.

At the local market place, a monument for the illegal human trafficker was unveiled. The local barracks of the border police were occupied. Some of the hoaxes and actions led to thoughtful

discussions, others to scorn and aggression. Activists were invited to visit the detention camp nearby by inhabitants. Together, they publicised the disastrous conditions with an exhibition at the market place, demanding an extension of the monthly loo-paper rations. The camp made clear that the forgotten areas at the margins of nation-states are really at the centre of social struggle.

Dover Border Camp

The European noborder network is organising four camps for this summer:

- 23. - 30.7.00 Sicily/Italy,
- 13. - 19.8.00 Ustrzyki Gorne - Polish/Ukrainian/Slovakian triangle
- 29.7. - 6.8. Cottbus, Germany, Polish border
- And on the American/Mexican border

There are also plans for a border camp in Dover, possibly next Spring.

Why Dover? The white cliffs of Dover have been a symbol of the tolerant shores of Britain for generations of continental refugees. The channel can be both a border separating Britain from the Continent or a bridge towards Europe. At the moment, for many people, it seems to be more an obstacle. Dover is a highly polarised community - running a rally there would only reinforce already hardened positions. A border camp might be a way to slightly open them up. Anybody who is willing to make a public intervention in a difficult setting work is needed to make this camp happen. Info: www.contrast.org/borders/camp; www.noborder.eu.org

refugees

are

welcome

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here, racists are not.

contacts

Anti Fascist Action (AFA), BM 1734, London, WC1N 3XX, 07000 569569,
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/senate/5602>

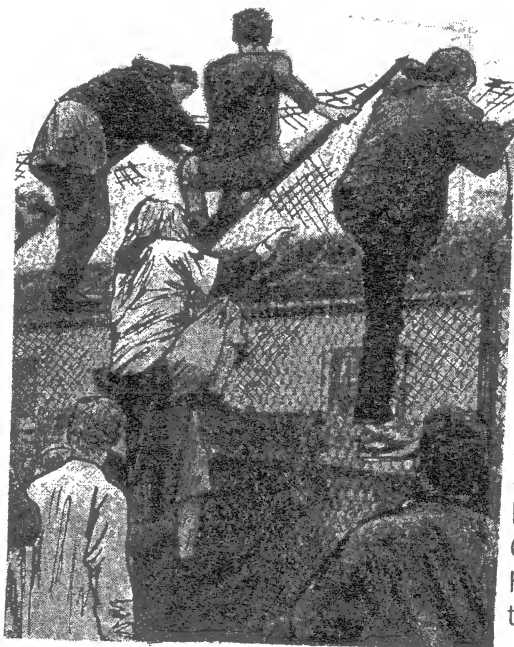
CAGE (see contacts Page)

CARF (see above)

Dover Residents against Racism, c/o Refugee Link, PO Box 417, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4GT
European noborders Network (see above)

The Europe Roma Association, PO Box 14874, London NW1 0WF
National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, 110 Hamstead Road, Birmingham B20 2QS Phone: 0121-554-6947

www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/
www.users.ox.ac.uk/~asylum



Roma Emergency

On the 6th July, thousands of Roma people currently in the U.K were judged to have no right to claim asylum here, even though it was accepted that they are persecuted by racist gangs in their Eastern European homelands.

In making the judgement, Lord Hope of Craighead said that there was an obligation to grant refugee status only if the applicant's own state was unable or unwilling to protect its people. To acknowledge that this was the case in Slovakia would leave the British Government open to (more) criticism, over the cases of Stephen Lawrence, Ricky Reel, etc...

Responding to the judgement, Roma people have said that the police are bastards who do not care, and if deported they "may as well put us in the gas chambers like they did in the war." Many Roma people in Britain will be forcibly removed in the near future.

The 5 Lords who made the ruling are : Anthony John Leslie Lloyd-68 Strand on the Green, Chiswick, W4 3PF, Tel: 020 89947790, or Ludlay, Berwick, East Sussex, BN26 6TE, Tel: 01323 870204, James Arthur David Hope- 34 India St, Edinburgh, EH3 6HB, Tel: 0131 225 8245 (he's the Chancellor of Strathclyde University), Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, James John Clyde, and James Stewart Hobhouse. Write to them and let them know what you think!

caravan tour

A Caravan Tour for asylum rights is planned for September. It aims to travel through the UK for a month to express support for the rights of asylum-seekers and migrants and the victims of racist attacks, provide practical support and solidarity for asylum-seekers and black communities, unite the struggles for asylum and migration rights and justice.

This idea was sparked by the success of a similar project in Germany, which travelled through over 40 cities to highlight and protest against the conditions of migrants and asylum-seekers.

The plan so far is to travel through various cities for 5 weeks, starting from mid-September, and link up with events that have already been planned, like the Barbed Wire Conference in Oxford (15-17 September) and the demonstration for asylum rights in Newcastle on September 30. The Caravan will also meet with local groups and hold demonstrations outside detention centres, or visit people in hostels (for example in Dover).

CARF has offered to function as the organising committee, but everything depends on the input of organisations and individuals. Everyone with ideas and/or contacts can get in touch with Campaign Against Racism & Fascism, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX, tel: 020 7837 1450 Web: <http://www.carf.demon.co.uk> or come along to meetings every Wednesday, 7.30pm, @ the Institute of Race Relations, 2-6 Leeke Street (off King's Cross Road, London).

racists

are

not.

ere;

Action Groups

Bath EFi
c/o PO Box 426, Bath
Somerset BA1 2ZD

Bristol EFi
c/o Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0117 939 3093

Cambridge EFi
Box E, 12 Mill Road
Cambridge CB1 2AD
Cheltenham EFi
16 Portland Street
Cheltenham
Gloucs. GL52 2PB

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Exeter EX4 4EW
File EFi
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01334 477411

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Norwich NR2 3AL
07931 308091
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egroups.com

Nottingham EFi
c/o the Rainbow ctr
182 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3HW
0115 958 5666

Oldham EFi
PO Box 127
OLDHAM OL4 3FE
Oxford EFi
c/o PO Box 68
Oxford, OX3 1RH

Reclaim the Streets
PO Box 9656, London
N4 4JY 0171 281 4621
http://www.gn.apc.org/rts/
rts@gn.apc.org

Reclaim the Valleys
c/o Swansea
Environment Centre
Pier Street
Swansea SA1 1RY

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street
Reading
Berkshire RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@clara.net

Sheffield EFi
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Centre, 82 Andover St.
Sheffield, S3 9EH.
0114 2797164
jimthackery
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South Devon EFi
See Totnes Genetics
Group
Swansea People EFi
c/o Green Action
Swansea Uni SU
Swansea, Wales

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PO Box 70, Newport
NP1 0YD swangroup@
yahoo.co.uk

TAPP (Tyneside Action
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Newcastle NE99 1TA
Warwick EFi
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csv.warwick.ac.uk

Wildfire Collective
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Brighton BN1 4SN
Wolves Eco Action
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs
Wolves Uni SU
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY
York EFi
c/o York LEAF
PO Box 323, York

Action Groups are local EFi contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. The **Propaganda** section lists non-EFi publications which are worth reading. **International Contacts** are entry points into that country's own network of groups. **Other Contacts** are ones whose principles we agree with fully in part. For groups web addresses visit <http://www.snet.co.uk/efi/> New additions and alterations are shown in bold.

PROPAGANDA

The Agitator
c/o Haringey
Solidarity
Group

Counter Information
c/o 17 W. Montgomery
Place
Edinburgh
EW7 5HA
0131 557 8242

Do or Die
c/o Prior House,
6 Tilbury Place,
Brighton BN2 2GY
doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

FINs - for a full list of
free information
networks & more, send
SAE to: London FIN
c/o 99 Tormoin Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715
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WC1N 3XX

I-Contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol
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0117 914 0188
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videonet.org

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
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Radix-europe wide DA
video lending library
c/o Projektwerkst
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(answerphone)
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Box 79, 82 Colston
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S36 4TG
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3 Crawley Road
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lecofaenes!
c/o Leeds EFi
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0116 210 9652
jynx@gn.apc.org
www.oneworld.org/delta
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01603 611953
tanuk@envirolink.org
Genetic Engineering
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(as for RTS)
0181 374 9516
genetics@gn.apc.org
GenetX Snowball
(open crop removal)
One World Centre
6 Mount Street
Manchester M2 5NS
0161 834 0295
genetxsnowball@
onet.co.uk
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Cruelty Campaign, PO
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0121 632 6460
Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
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Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org
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(Wilts. greenfields)
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0836 743581
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01273 885913
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01803840098
Tndent Ploughshares
2000 (anti-nuke direct
disarmament)
01324 880744
www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/
URGENT (greenfield
housing network)
Box HN, 16b Cherwell
St, Oxford, OX4 1BG.
01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

PROTEST CAMPS
Aldermaston Women's
Peace Camp
(alternative weekends)
33 Heron Road
Bristol BS5 0LT
0117 939 3746
Ashington Protest
Camp (Essex, evicted)
07957 915977
Action Against the Toll
Motorway (AtoM).
07818 687742
actionagainstthetollmoto
rway@hotmail.com
Avon Ring Road Protest
Camp
c/o 84 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0797 999 0369
Birmingham Northern
Relief Road - see AtoM
Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire
Scotland G84 8HT
01436 820 901
Friends of Lyminge
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1NG 01303 257046 /
07803 1738
merlin@envirolink.org
Golden cross Road
Action Group (Essex)
01702 541267 / 07957
915977
Gorse Wood
(anti-A170 bypass)
02082994244
www.gorsewood.ornia
.co.uk
Hockley Housing
(near Southend)
01702 206181/
0831 687635

Ladies Anti Quarry
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Stanton Lees, Matlock,
Derbyshire
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The Earth First! Summer Gathering

This year's EF! Summer Gathering, was possibly the most successful and well-attended yet. Perhaps it was the beautiful Welsh mountains that did it, or maybe the galaxy of workshops, from a thorough MayDay analysis, to reorganising resistance to the new roads programme, or learning basic electrics and Welsh language. Some felt the 'festival' aspect overshadowed the political side, but all in all it was a marvellous event. Respect to the organising crew. If you fancy helping organise the next one, or this year's Winter Moot, contact the summer gathering people (see contacts page).

Protest Against Itoiz Dam

On June 20 2000, 30 people constructed a wall of bricks in the door of the Spanish Embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands to protest against the building of the Itoiz Dam in the Basque Country of Spain.

This action, demonstrating what it would be like to have an unwanted dam built in front of your house, took place in response to the court case against two women activists who managed to stop the illegal building of the Dam by sabotaging machinery in 1998. More info Tel:06-23390616 <http://wagenstraat.squat.net/itoiz>

Terrorism Ammendment

The Green Party have achieved their first ever Bill amendment, and have managed to get the definition of terror in the Terrorism Bill changed. It was "action endangering the life of any person," but now continues "other than that of the person committing the action" so Suffragette Emily Davison, who threw herself in front of a horse, would not be classified as a terrorist!

Edinburgh Reclaimed

The midsummer street party in Edinburgh was a huge success. Over 1000 people reclaimed the streets all over the city centre for 4 hours on 17 June, with only 1 or 2 arrests. Despite press rants against the event, police horses and vans, people took over Princess Street, the main road. Drummers and a pedal-powered sound-system played, a giant puppet cavorted, and there was dancing in the streets.

USA June 18 2000

On June 18th, a Carnival Against Capitalism took place in Eugene, USA. Billed as a 'Historic Re-enactment' of last year's events, around 300 people protested on the streets. Unlike previous events, there was not a single act of property damage, yet around 600 police, plus SWAT teams, state troopers and sheriffs were called in to clear the streets in any way they wanted. Several people were arrested, seemingly at random, and one man was shot at point-blank with 5 rubber bullets.

'Rob the Rich-Jailhouse Writings' is a short booklet by Rob Thaxton, June 18 1999 prisoner. All proceeds to his Legal Defence Fund. Available for a small donation from Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, PO Box 11331, Eugene, Oregon, 97440, USA.

Prisoners

On July 20th, 2000, Mark Barnsley was transferred from HMP Woodhill. He is now at HMP Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. This, the 4th in a series of punishment transfers this year, is clearly an attempt to further isolate Mark from his family, supporters and solicitor. Mark's solicitor has been trying to get him moved to a prison where he would be closer to his family and friends in the North of England. The Prison Service obviously have other plans for him. Mark's new address is: Mark Barnsley -WA2897, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK

The Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign is demanding that Mark is relocated immediately to a prison in the North of England. We ask that supporters write letters and faxes and make phone calls as soon as possible to the following prison officials.

Martin Narey, Director General of Prisons, Prison Service HQ, Cleland House, Page Street, London, SWT 4LN

Peter Atherton, Director of High Security Prisons, Prison Service HQ, Cleland House, Page Street, London, SWT 4LN, Fax: 0207 2176664

Paul Boateng MP, Minister of State Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT

Max Morrison, The Governor HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5NX

Action Diary

August

1 Blockade of Faslane nuclear base, followed by 2 week disarmament camp. Contact Trident Ploughshares, Scotland 01324 880744 or Scottish CND 0141-423 1222. tp2000@gn.apc.org

6 10th anniversary of UN sanctions on Iraq. Vigil opposite Downing St.

6 Point the Finger Demo at Aldermaston. National CND action.

7 Mass nonviolent civil disobedience in central London (and anywhere else, if you want) to mark a decade of economic sanctions. Contact: 01865 243232 voices@viwuk.freemove.co.uk

9 Point the Finger Finale: Handing in of declarations of protest at National Missile Defence Programme at Downing St. and US Embassy. Contact: 7700 4524.

9 6pm. Vigil at St Martin in the Fields, London, for victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Contact London CND on 020 7607 2302.

10-15 Northern Green Gathering. £35. Contact: 0113 2249885.

12 Glorious 12th. First day of pheasant killing. Sabotage the (in)glorious few. Contact: 01273 622827

18-20 The Land is Ours Summer Gathering in Yorkshire. 01865 722016.

19 Street Party in Leicester. 12 noon, peace Walk, Victoria Park. Contact: 0116 210 9652.

19 CIA (Cambridge in August) co-ordinated actions against multinationals, GM crops, animal abusers etc. Contact: 07776 497005/6.

29 First anniversary of the East Timor Independence referendum.

September

3 Burston Strike School Rally, Norfolk. Annual event celebrating the longest strike in history. Contact: 0208843 9591.

4 Steal Something Day. Meet 12 noon Bus Station, Sheffield City Centre.

11 Retrial of Rosie & Rachel for damage to HMS Vengeance (nuclear sub) in February 1999. Manchester Crown Court. Contact: 07808 553778. awtt@hotmail.com

16/17 CND Annual Conference in Leeds. Contact: 020 77002357. cnd@gn.apc.org

22 European car-free day.

23 National day of action against nuclear trains. Contact: 020 77002393.

26-28 World Bank and the International Monetary Fund annual summit in Prague. Should be big. Transport from London, Oxford, Manchester. <http://go.to/s26>

GM Feed Factory Closed Down

On 20th June, 17 people entered, occupied and closed the BOCM Pauls animal feed processing plant in Alton, Hampshire. BOCM Pauls is a large manufacturer of animal feed in the UK, and since 50% of all genetically modified (GM) crops are used in animal feed, this means that BOCM Pauls probably use more GM products than any other UK company.

In a well-planned action people arrived at the front gate at around 1.00pm. Different groups made their way to the offices and the processing plants, whilst another closed the gates and hung a cool banner reading "Resistance is Fertile!" across them.

The be-suited office employees were talked to, but most expressed confusion and/or an antagonistic attitude. In the manufacturing plant it was different, with some of the occupiers having a cup of tea and some cool chats with the people working there. Maybe next time they'll even be a game of football!

After an hour or so four police turned up. Slightly baffled, they didn't really do anything except stop a macho truck driver from starting a fight with people blocking the gate. After another hour a chief cop and video wielding cop arrived and after more faffing gave a deadline "leave or be arrested". There was an impromptu get together and he was given the occupiers decision - that they would stay until 4.30pm and leave then, not before. And that's what happened. A successful day, no injuries or arrests, a shut down of a GM related industry for an afternoon, some minor office mischief, a good laugh and another chance to see some mates. Watch out for more!

Trolley Theatre

Trolley Theatre want to network with anyone who is interested in mixing performance with direct action and eco-education. They have been successfully running for a few years, but would like to meet more people. They plan to hold weekend gatherings in autumn to discuss ideas, collaborations and effectiveness for the future. If you have skills or experiences you'd like to share, contact

trolleytheatre@bigfoot.com
0117 939 3903



Glen of the Downs Evicted

Police and private security moved in this month and removed protesters in tree houses and tunnels at Glen of the Downs protest camp, County Wicklow, Ireland. The eviction took 2 days as the developers, Ascon, destroyed everything in their way with no thought for the safety of the campers. Heavy machinery was driven over tunnels so those inside were forced out, fearing for their lives. All the camp equipment was destroyed or confiscated, and the camp cockerel was deliberately killed.

Many people have now moved on to an anti-pylon protest at Cove, County Cork.

contact glenofthedowns@ireland.com

Contact us at: EF!AU, P.O. Box 1TA,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA
0797 4791841 <actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.eco-action.org/efau
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"article" in the subject line.)

Genetic pirates: Out of Chiapas!

As the news broke in Europe of the Mexican election results, actions took place on July 5th in the U.K. against a British company, Molecular Nature Ltd. in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of Chiapas, Mexico who are opposing the Maya International Co-operative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG) project - of which Molecular Nature is the commercial partner. Molecular Nature Ltd's work will result in patents on compounds extracted from the plants of Chiapas being owned by foreign companies, without the consent of indigenous people.

The aim of this action was to highlight the struggle of the Mayan indigenous communities against foreign biopiracy and Mexican military aggression, in what is one of the most biologically rich regions of the world.

Activists dressed as pirates visited the company's headquarters in Maidenhead, Berkshire and their research laboratories in Wales. They delivered letters to key staff members and shareholders as well as visiting the gardens of Company directors to symbolically collect samples of plants there. At the office headquarters, a director complained that we had not made an appointment and that he wanted us to go away - activists replied that many communities in Chiapas felt the same way about the Maya ICBG project intruding in their region. Letters were also presented to the Mexican Ambassador to the UK, and the Mexican Consulate.

Biodiversity is not for sale or profit!
For more info see: <http://www.rafi.org>
<http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk/chiapas.htm>

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